



# Laying the Tracks for Bay Area Regional Rail

## Study Purpose

The Regional Rail Plan will develop a long-range vision for a passenger and freight rail system that serves the San Francisco Bay Area and adjacent regions.

### Regional Rail Plan—Next Stop: The Future!

Fed up with long, congested commutes, public transit service cuts and round-the-clock traffic, Bay Area voters approved Regional Measure 2 in 2004. This measure sought to address congestion in toll bridge corridors around the bay and enhance the convenience and reliability of the region's public transit system, including the passenger rail system.

As required by the voters, this effort includes the Bay Area Regional Rail Plan—a comprehensive blueprint to improve and extend passenger railroad, rapid transit and high-speed rail service today and for years to come.

### Planning Principles

In October 2005, the study sponsors and other rail operators met to brainstorm some initial planning guidelines. Ten themes emerged as common planning principles, as follows:

1. Develop a visionary rail plan for the next 50 years.
2. Respect existing rail service improvement plans.
3. Think like a passenger—ensure convenient, efficient service.
4. Connect transit and trains.
5. Offer adequate capacity.
6. Separate conventional freight and passenger services.
7. Use proven technology.
8. Incorporate cost-effective solutions.
9. Develop a comprehensive funding plan.
10. Transportation and land use are linked.

These themes and input from public workshops will be the basis to generate rail alternatives and evaluation criteria to test those alternatives.






## Planning Process—A Team Effort

### Why Are We Here?

This workshop is the first step in defining a vision for rail in the Bay Area, brainstorming possible service extensions and new rail routes, and sketching out study evaluation requirements.

### Who's Involved? What's the Process?

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and the California High-Speed Rail Authority are jointly developing the Regional Rail Plan — but with plenty of help.

-  **Bay Area residents** along with neighboring communities are invited to help develop the Regional Rail Plan at a series of community workshops, including this one.
-  A **regional rail steering committee** of county congestion management agencies and local passenger and freight rail operators, including Amtrak, Capitol Corridor, Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) and Union Pacific Railroad and Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railway are providing direction on the study.
-  An **advisory group** of academics, environmentalists and business people is lending technical expertise to the steering committee. Neighboring regional agencies and county government associations are also participating.

The steering committee will review and comment on the plan before it is sent to the **Metropolitan Transportation Commission** for final action in July 2007.

### Rail Plan Step-by-Step

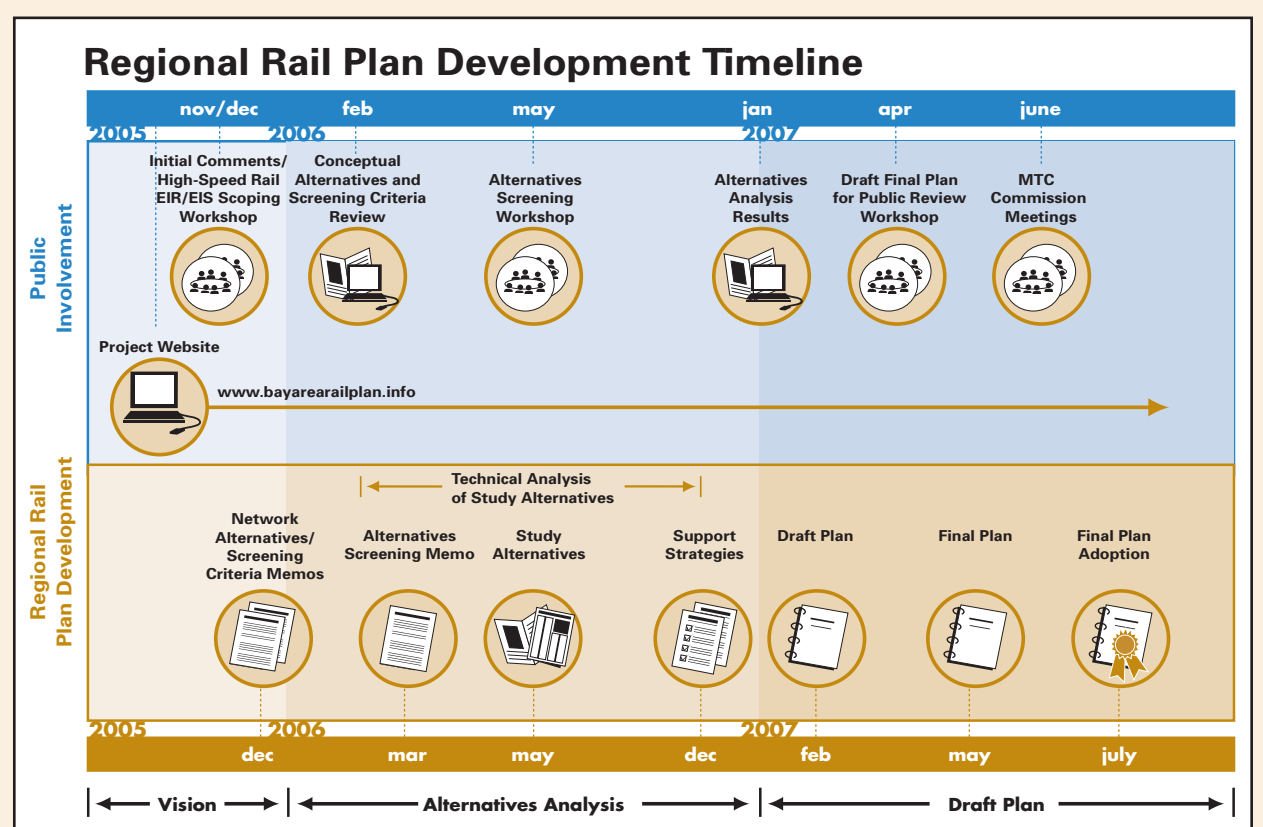
The Regional Rail Plan effort is divided into three phases.

**Phase 1 – Vision:** Develop conceptual alternatives and screening criteria.

**Phase 2 – Alternatives:** Rigorously screen the initial alternatives and identify final alternatives for further evaluation.

**Phase 3 – Draft Plan:** Perform detailed technical evaluations of the study alternatives and prepare draft and final plans identifying regional and high-speed rail extensions and services for the near-, intermediate- and long-terms.

Additional stakeholder meetings and public workshops will be held at study milestones.



## Improving What We Have, Planning for Our Needs

The Regional Rail Plan study area includes the nine Bay Area counties:

- Alameda
- Contra Costa
- Marin
- Napa
- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara
- Solano
- Sonoma

As well as parts of these counties:

- Yolo
- Sacramento
- Placer
- San Joaquin
- Stanislaus
- San Benito
- Santa Cruz
- Monterey

The plan will look at improvements and extensions of railroad, rapid transit, and high-speed rail services for the near- (5 to 10 years), intermediate- (10 to 25 years), and long-term (25 to 50 years).

More specifically, the plan will examine ways to:

- Incorporate passenger trains into existing rail systems;
- Improve connections between passenger trains and other transit, such as light-rail, shuttles and buses;
- Expand the regional rapid-transit network; increase rail capacity for both passenger and freight rail systems;
- Coordinate rail investment around transit-friendly communities and businesses;
- Formulate strategies for preserving and acquiring "rights-of-way" for future rail service;
- Identify urban locations where passenger rail could stimulate redevelopment;
- Consider various rail technologies; and
- Develop options to consolidate rail services and activities to provide better, more efficient rail service.

The plan also will provide a detailed analysis of potential high-speed train routes between the Bay Area and the Central Valley. The goal of this part of the study is to identify which of the alignment alternatives merit further evaluation in the California High-Speed Rail Authority's "Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)."

